

REMARKS:

Applicants are amending claims 1, 15, and 21, and are adding claims 24-26. Thus, claims 1-26 currently are pending and are subject to examination in the above-captioned patent application. No new matter is added by the forgoing amendments, and these amendments are fully supported by the specification. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the above-captioned patent application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

In the Office Action mailed November 28, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 5, 6, 15-18, and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Floyd (U.S. Patent No. 6,282,220) in view of Tan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,252,896, hereinafter "Tan"). The Examiner also rejected claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Floyd in view of Tan and further in view of Sassa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,650,641, hereinafter "Sassa"). Moreover, the Examiner rejected claims 3, 4, 7-9, and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Floyd in view of Tan and further in view of Hatakoshi (U.S. Patent No. 6,031,858). Further, the Examiner rejected claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Floyd in view of Tan and further in view of Kovats et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,399,541, hereinafter "Kovats"). Still further, the Examiner rejected claims 14, 22, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Floyd in view of Tan and Hatakoshi and further in view of Onishi (U.S. Patent No. 6,661,824). The Examiner also rejected claims 10 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Floyd in view of Tan and

further in view of Onishi. To the extent that these rejections remain applicable in view of the foregoing amendments, Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections, as follows.

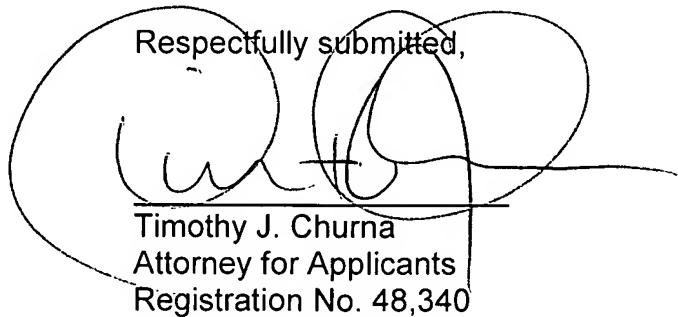
Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 15, and 21 in order to clarify that each adhesion layer contains a metal component and serves as a common electrode for the laser oscillation sections, and that a metal-diffusion preventing film is included to prevent metal diffusion. Using an adhesion layer containing a metal component, it is possible for such an adhesive layer to serve as a common electrode for the laser oscillation sections, thereby making it possible to reduce the number of electrodes to be provided for supplying electric current for driving the laser device, thus simplifying the structure of the laser device. Further, by forming a metal-diffusion preventing film, it is possible to prevent the diffusion of metal, thereby ensuring a high quality and an acceptable performance of the laser device.

Applicants respectfully submit that none of the prior art references, standing alone or in combination, discloses or suggests that each adhesion layer contains a metal component and serves as a common electrode for the laser oscillation sections, and that a metal-diffusion preventing film is included to prevent metal diffusion, as set forth in independent claims 1, 15, and 21. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of independent claims 1, 15, and 21 at least for these reasons.

Claims 2-14, 16-20, 22, and 23 depend from allowable, independent claims 1, 15, and 21, respectively. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of claims 2-14, 16-20, 22, and 23 at least for this reason.

CONCLUSION:

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-captioned patent application is in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that an in-person or telephonic interview with Applicants' representatives would expedite the prosecution of the above-captioned patent application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney of records. Applicants believe that no fees are due as a result of this responsive amendment. Nevertheless, in the event of any variance between the fees determined by Applicants and those determined by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, please charge or credit any such variance to the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referencing Attorney Docket No. 107156-00220.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy J. Churna
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 48,340

Customer No. 004372
ARENT FOX, PLLC
1050 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20036-5339
Telephone No. (202) 715-8434
Facsimile No. (202) 638-4810

GEO/TJC:ksm